

*A*  
DECLARATION  
SET FORTH BY THE  
Protestants in France; shewing the la-  
*mentable distresse and calamities that they*  
of Bearn in France are fallen into, by meanes  
of the oppression and wrong done vnto them,  
in regard of their profession of the  
reformed Religion.

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*With all the troubles which happened vn-  
to them since the beginning of the Edicts sent out against  
them by the French King  
vntill this time.*

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Together with the rest of their procee-  
dings, vntill this present month  
of Iuly. 1621.

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Printed at Rochell 1621.

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A Declaration, set forth by the Protestants  
in *France*.

**O**haue and endure calamities, and not to  
feele them, is a mortall infirmie, seeing  
that feeling is an affectiō of Life. To feele  
aduersities, and dare not complaine, is a  
cruell respect, & an enemye to nature, see-  
ing that griefe & sorow is eased by teares,  
and asswaged by complaints; we endure  
calamities at this present, and yet haue not hearts of Brasse or  
steele to feele our owne miseries, nor yet so soft nor faynt, that  
we dare not complaine: Seeing then that all other remedies at  
this present are taken from vs, let vs fill our eyes with teares,  
the Ayre with our sighes, and this Paper with the true recitall  
of the miseries that we endure; And so at the least we shall  
scape that contentment to make our griefe knowne to our bre-  
theren, & letting them vnderstand our troubles, we shall moue  
them to compassion with vs, it being a iust thing, that as we are  
vnited together by one selfe-same Religion, and hated for one  
cause, we should be touched with one selfe-same and the like  
feeling.

It is plaine and manifest to all the Realme of France, that  
there was a Sentence giuen, & Iudgement sent forth vpon the  
same, for the attachment of the spirituall Land in the country  
of Bearn (so much spoken of) which Sentence and Decree was  
giuen, without hearing or permitting those of the reformed  
Churches of this Soueraigntie, against all order of Iustice, to

be heard speake in their owne cause: And there are but few  
 men, to whom it is not known, that for the space of 51. years  
 our Ministers (the Colledge and Garison of Nauerreux) haue  
 their maintenance and entertainment onely, out of the same  
 No man likewise is ignorant of the iust Complaints that our  
 Churches haue made, not onely against that Decree and Edict  
 made thereupon, but also against an other Edict cald the Sup-  
 ply; wherby we were sent out of the Country, to seeke that en-  
 tertainment. All those that haue vnderstood our cause, may  
 easilye iudge of the equity of our Complaints, seeing that the  
 soueraigne Court of Bearn, by two Decrees made at the pre-  
 sentation of those Edicts (and of a Commission) had declared  
 That there was no cause to iustifie the said Edicts, which ought  
 to be acknowledged for iust, seeing that the generall Assem-  
 bly of the Churches of the Religion in France, holden at Loudun  
 with so great affection & zeale, craued and pursued the reuo-  
 cation of that Arrest and Edicts: The said complaints & pur-  
 suits likewise were iust, for that the King (by the aduice of his  
 Counsell) granted the said Assembly seauen monethes time, to  
 begin, from the seauenth of Aprill last, wherein the Churches  
 of Bearn should be heard, and might make their complaints &  
 declarations vnto his Maiestie, touching the said Decree and  
 Edicts. And let vs adde hereunto, for the better Instruction &  
 satisfaction of those that know it not, That the generall Depu-  
 ties of the reformed Churches in France, during that time  
 seeking and soliciting the said reuocation, Answer was giuen  
 them by the Kings Counsell, that they must stay the comming  
 of the Churches of Bearn, And his Maiestie him selfe being at  
 Bourdeaux, wrote vnto the Iudges of the Parliament of Pau,  
 that he did not dislike, that the said Churches should haue the  
 aduantage of the said moneths, in their fauour graunted vnto  
 the said generall Assembly, The Tenor of which Letter follow-  
 eth in this Discourse: To distrust the Royall worde of a King,



no man could doe it without offending his Maieſtie: to con-  
 ſeue, that during the time graunted, his Maieſtie would com-  
 mand the verification of his Edicts, had bene a crime meriting  
 great puniſhment; neuertheles, beholde we beſeech you, what  
 hapned vnto vs during the ſaid time.

The King hauing appeaſed the troubles that began to ariſe  
 in the State of France, reſolued to diuert his victorious  
 Armes into Guyenne, and being at Bourdeaux, nothing was  
 ſpoken of in the Court but of Bearn: Bearn was the onely ſub-  
 iect of the diſcourſes, and the object of the animosity of thoſe,  
 that long time had practiſed and ſought our ruine and over-  
 throwe. The Romiſh Prelates kindled thoſe coales, to cauſe a  
 great fire to burſt forth, vſing all the meanes they could to in-  
 flame the Kings wrath againſt vs, ſpecially employing thoſe  
 meanes that are moſt ordinary with them, that is, ſlaunders &  
 euill wordes, deſcribing vs to be Rebels and diſobedient, pub-  
 likely ſaying, that all the Country was in Armes, and that we  
 ſpoke not of the Kings ſacted perſon, but iniuriouſly and with  
 great deſpight. Theſe impoſtures being continually hangd  
 at the eares of the Miniſters of the State, more and more en-  
 creafing the hatred of the Religion, and the deſire vtterly to  
 extirpe it. And knowing that the execution of the Edict of ſea-  
 zing vpon the Eccleſticall Lands, would be a meanes to diſ-  
 grace and diſhonour the Churches of this Country, & to caſt  
 them into a pittious & lamentable eſtate; and to the contrary  
 enraife the Romiſh Church to a prodigious greatnes, and the  
 height of riches; did moſt induſtriouſly employe all the artifi-  
 ciall meanes & practices that they could deuife, to effect their  
 deſignes, and thereby with them to make a hole in the treaſure  
 of worldly dignities, and to play faſt and looſe with them that  
 drew no other breath then that of the earth. The Kings Coun-  
 ſell compoſde of Cardinals, Biſhops, and Ieſuites, that were  
 ſure not to ſtop their eares againſt their ſolicitations, but rather  
 had

had an instrest in their demaunds, perswaded the King that was a meanes to diminish his authoritie, and that the cause was his and not the Bishops.

Vpon the report that the King came into Guyenne the Parliament of Pau appointed two Deputies to goe to the King wheresoeuer he was, and to assure his Maiestie of their most humble and obedient seruice, which the said Deputies with great dilligence speedily performed, finding the King at Bourdeaux, where nothing was said vnto them, but onely touching the veryfication of the Edi&ct of the fenure of the spirituall Lawes, whereby the King had fully resolved to content the Pope, and to further and aduance the Romish Church. And to that end his Maiestie had already commanded Monsieur *de la Force* Governour & Lieutenant Generall of these Countreies, and Monsieur *de Casaux* chiefe President in the sayd Parliament, to repaire to him at Bourdeaux; who being come to the Court; they kneeled downe before the King, not onely in their owne names, but also in all the names of those of the Country, to renew the assurances of their subiection, obedience and most humble fidelitie, who after audience had, he commanded them to returne to Bearn againe, therein to procure the execution of his will and pleasure, and to cause the Edi&ct for the seazing vpon the Ecclesiasticall lands, made in fauour of the Bishop of Rome, and that of the supply made in fauour of our Churches to be verified. After them, about the beginning of October, he sent a second commission into Bearn by Monsieur *de la Chesnay*, to sollicite the Iudges, and to make them capable of the impressions, which the Kings counsell intended to giue them: he threatned them with the comming of the King; assuring them, if they refuse the same, he had resolved to turne his forces against them.

The Parliament knew not what to resolve: on the one side being abashed by his menaces; and a feare to draw vpon the Country.

Country a totall and an ineuitable ruyne, knowing that the  
 wrath of a King is death : On the other side, considering the  
 Kings Edi&ts, finding it to be contrary to so many other Edi&ts,  
 Proclamations and Declarations, made aswell by his Maiestie  
 (now rainging) as by the Kings his predecessors, contrary to  
 the graunt of the aforesaid tearmes of seauen monthes, made  
 to our Churches, contrarie to the peace and assurance of  
 the state, and which is worst of all : The ruine of the sayd Chur-  
 ches, as bereauing them of the land that were allotted vnto them  
 for the maintenance of their Ministers, and making them tri-  
 butants to the Popes officers. What should they doe, should  
 they breake, and annihilate so many Edi&ts, to iustifie, and al-  
 low one? Should they be constrained to disobay the King, to  
 yceild obedience vnto him? He that in all things ought to pro-  
 cure the good of the state and to be a tutor to the people; shall  
 he doe a thing that is contrarie to the good of the state; and  
 disturbe the peoples peace? He that make profession of the true  
 religion, shall he be cause of the losse of his religion? He that  
 was borne in the Church, fed & nourished in her bosome, shall  
 he be constrained (Oh hard and heauie condition) for sauing  
 of his owne body to pierce his mother the Churches Brest?

At last, hauing long waighed this case in the ballance of vn-  
 certainty, he determined to vse an indifferent course betweene  
 two extremities, & therevpon ordained, seeing it had pleased  
 his Maiestie, by the intercession of those of the assembly gene-  
 rall holden in Loudum, to grant his subiects of Bearn, making  
 profession of the reformed religiō the space of seuen moneths,  
 to present their most humble supplications and declarations,  
 seeing also that not long before his Maiestie had vouchsafed to  
 write to the Parliament, that his intent was that the Churches  
 of Bearn should haue the aduantage of the said time, which as  
 the was not expired, he ordained (I say) that humble suplicatiō  
 should be made vnto the King to beseech him to hear & giue au-



dience vnto the said Churches within a month, whom he commanded by decree to go thither, within the time that yet rested vnexpired, to prostrate themselves at his feet, to present their humble supplications and requests vnto his Maiestie, and in default thereof, the Parliament would binde it selfe, to verifie the Ediēt without moderation or reseruatiō, according to his Maiesties commandement. To beare this decree to the King and to informe him of the equitie thereof; two Counsellors of the sayd Court of Parliamēt were deputed. But all they could doe, they could not obtaine the effect of this so iust a demand. And who would euer haue thought that the King would haue refused to heare the most humble supplications of his faithful Subiects, desiring to prostrate themselves at his feet in all humility, seeing also that he had so solemnly promised by his answers giuen to the motions made by those of the assembly at Loudun, Is not the King as able to will, as puissant to hold his worde & to accomplish his promises? Shall we complain surely not of the Kings bountie (so iust and curteous a Prince but of the malice of this world and the euill dispositions of the spirits of the Court, dispitfull against vs, and resolute to seek our destruction.

The King hauing heard the Tenor of this Deeree, roughly sent the Deputies away, and thereupon determined and fully resolved to goe into Bearne: whereupon, the Parliament being aduertised of his designe, to appease the Kings wrath, and to diuert the effect of his seuerer threatnings, determined to verifie his Ediēt, without moderation or restraint whatsoever: What should it haue done, should it haue resisted a King that came with a wrathfull spirit, accompanied with a puissant & fearful Army, to abate, cast downe & breake in pieces, all those that should resist and withstand? The Ediēt being iustified, the Kings Attourney generall had charge to beare the verification of the same to the King, as a testimony of our obedience and  
submi



submission : who found the King all ready on his journey to Bearn, & shewing himselfe before him as he was on the way, he presented the verificatiō of the Ediēt vnto him, which was accordindg to his pleasure : But he being resolutely determined to make the Bernois feeble the effect and rigor of his wrath, staide not therefore, but went forward. Most puissant Prince, will not your grace be pleased, in some measure to moderate your wrath ? will you not at this present shew your selfe as gracious and gentle vnto your Subiects, as you are terrible and redoubted of your enemies ? shall that Country that hath had the glory to haue borne, nourished in her bosome, and finally giuen France that great *Herculee*, the terror of the world : *Henry* the great your Father, sooner feeble the arrowes of your indignation, then the effects of your fauour and being presence ?

The nearer that the King approached to Bearne, the Court of Parliament attended and expected nothing but threatnings against this poore Countrey : it was already ordained to the pillage, and those of the religion to the slaughter, as an offering to be made to appease the Kings wrath. The papisticall Ediēt of the Towne of Mōrla's (presented some dangerous accidents against vs) who to defend themselves from the crosse, marked their houses with a crosse ; It was against the Pastors particularly that their malice extended, and specially against those, who being imployed shewed some rigor in maintaining the Churches cause, all their names were knowne at the Court ; they were noted and marked by their faces ; on all sides they were counselled to flie into Rockes and holes in mountaines and Caues. In the meane time the King entred into the Countrey ; accompanied with terror and feare. The Soldiers tooke, pilld, ransacked, and hardly vsed their Hostes, with immeasurable insolency, their hands were imployed about nothing but extortion and violence : Their mouthes neuer opened, but to blaspheme and curse God, and to threaten

iniurious bloody persecutions, against those of the Religion knowne whom they called rebels, traytors, bougers, olde forcerers, and sic an accursed race; speaking of nothing but fire, gibbits, and gallows. They entred forcibly into the Churches, and being therein, brake and cast downe the Pulpits and seates. In the meane time the Papists in the Countrey triumphed and audaciously bragged, whose laughters and insolent behauiours, were, as many arrowes that pierced into the hearts of those of the Religion, so much astonished for the present euils, and the feare of future perils, that it seemed, that all thinges conspired and contributed with enuy to perswade them, that they had met with another *St. Bartholomewes*.

The King comming to Pau, would accept of no tryumph, nor ioyfull welcome or receiuing into the Towne; he would show himselfe to be armed with wrath and displeasure; and like a blazing Starre, which fore-sheweth the death of some great Prince, and the ruine of an Estate. Neuerthelesse the Consuls of the Towne went in their Liueries out into the suburbs to receiue him; presenting the keyes of the Towne, together with the testimony of the obedience and fidelitie of all the inhabitants vnto his Maiesty. The Iudge and others of the Court of Parliament, in scarlet robes, fell downe at his feet to yeeld vnto him the assurance of subiection and fidelity: but the King lookt on them with a countenance full of indignation, and sent them away with this answer in few words, which entring into their eares, pierced their hearts: Saying, (when you serue me better, I will be a good Prince vnto you) and in the meane time while they kneeled at his feet, presenting their affections and liues in quality of most humble, most faithfull, and most obedient Subiects & seruants, some spake aloud and said, that they were worthy to be hangd vp, as traytors & rebels.

The Church for her part, and the consergerie of Pau also did their duties, and went to the King being in his chamber, where kneeling

on kneeling downe before him, & speaking by the mouth of Monsieur *Pesarré* one of their Ministers, they presented vnto his Maieſty the fidelity of their hearts, consecrated to his most humble seruice, as his most faithfull seruants and subiects, protesting, that what slaunders and calumniationes soeuer were imposed vpon vs, by our euill willers, our Religion commanded vs, to serue, honor, obey and respect his Maieſty as our King; not only for feare, but specially for Conscience sake. The King made him answer and said, Serue me well and I will loue you. This contentment was a comfort vnto vs, against all the calumniationes, and insolent speeches vsed against vs, that it was reported vnto vs, that by the mouths of the Cardinals and Bishops that then were present, and by the generall consent of all that heard vs, being no small number: The Church receiued this testimony, that our Minister had spoken worthily and most Christianlike.

While his Maieſty stayd in Pau, who is able to rehearse all the excesses committed against those of the Religion? If a Minister spake, he was pointed at with their fingers; he was reuiled, and laden with iniuries: how many of them receiued disgrace, were beaten, and hardly vsed openly in the streets, for making open confession that they professed the reformed Religion; how many for feare of blowes, were constrained to make the signe of the crosse? how many vpon the generall day of Procession were forced with blowes of stauies, to kneele downe on the ground to adore the host, which with so great pompe was caryed vnder a Cannopy to blinde the common peoples eyes? But what shall I say, touching the prophanationes committed in *Pauls* Church? The King contrary to that which he had ordained by his answers, to the assemblies of the Bishops, gaue the Church of those of the Religion to the Papists, and caused Masse to be said therein before he went from Pau: Those that first entred into it, polluted that place by so

*in the house  
of God*

*in the house  
of God*



many abominable blasphemies, that it is mauaile, that the earth did not tremble, & the rooffe of the Church fell not down to destroy them. But what other thing could they doe, to witnesse, that from that place they banished the purity of Gods seruice, and the inuocation of his name, then by casting forth such execrable blasphemies against the holy and venerable name of God? being not content therewith, they went vp into the Pulpit, and there sung impudent and villanous songs, and after that filthily eased their bodyes therein, casting the Bible that they found in the Church foure times on the ground: and tare and puld in peeces the table of Gods Commandements that hung on the walles, to witnesse that they draue the truth of the word of God, and the obseruations of his commandements out of the Church.

But this is not all; for I must tell you of a most abominable act which deserueth to bee punished with a thousand Torments, and yet the Cardinals and Bishops that heard thereof, laughed at it, and the discourse made thereof, serued in the Court for a matter of sport and pastime. One of those abominable rascals, who in that matter handled the sacred Commandements of God, hauing therein read, *Hearken Israel*, with horrible blasphemies cryed out and said, that Israel was some deuill whom those Buggerers the Hugonites adored: and so reiterating both that name and those blasphemous words, furiously fell vpon the table of those diuine Commandements; and thereupon tooke occasion to teare them in many peeces. What saidst thou blasphemous villaine, That Israell is the name of a Deuill? Oh little flocke (in the Scriptures called the Israel of God) is it possible that thy enemies should giue thee the name of Belial? Oh holy Angell of God, hast thou permitted that good Patriarch *Iacob*, to hate the name of Sathan, for the price and reward of his holy and constant wrastring, but rather oh thou the most faithfull watchman ouer Israel, thou



neuer sleepest; be thou iealous of the honour of thy name: thou hast heard this blasphemous word, and hast scene this prophane villaine, and heard his execrable speeches, that are made a iest and laughter to the world. Oh God of vengeance, suffer them not long to goe vnpunished, least they should say, where is their God?

To report all the indignities done and offered to those of the Religion, during the time of the Kings being in this Countrey, were a matter that requireth a long subiect and great leasure; some other will shortly vndertake to declare them seuerally: it shall suffice for this present time to shew, that in the same time, they fully witnessed and make knowne what hatred against Religion, and what choller against those that make profession thereof, they haue conceiued; for their is no word that issueth from their mouths, nor action nor motion of their bodies, which tendeth not thereunto, so farre, that Monsieur *de Paulo* President of the Court of Parliament in Thoulouse; speaking to the Earle *de Chambrot*, touching the strange alterations that had bin made in Bearne, capable, as he said, to trouble the peace and tranquility of France, and to reduce matters to extremities, he made answer with a loude voyce (whereby many men of good quallity heard him, saying) you deceiue your selfe Sir: The Hugonites haue the quarterne ague; They haue bin sicke a great time, you shall see other thinges within these few dayes, for the King is resolu'd to take all their places from them, either by force or willingly: take, and boldly take our Fortresses from vs, pull downe the walles of our Townes, beat downe our defences, but yet you cannot bereaue vs of that heauenly retract, and most impugnable fortresse of the power of God, which appeareth and sheweth it selfe in the conseruation and defence of his Church.

All these, most insupportable things, haue bin followed and had their course with many preiudiciall alterations aswell in  
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the Church, as in the common Wealth : which might sufficiently exaggerate the losse of the Ecclesiastical possessions of the Churches lands, possessed and inioyed by them for the space of 51. yeares. by good and auailable Titles, as Edicts, letters Patents, and Decrees of Kings : and now what a pittifull thing it is, that two Bishops, that liue idly, in delights & pleasures of the world, should swallow vp and encroach vpon all the possessions of the Church, and that our Ministers who incessantly labour in the Ministrie of the word of God, to teach the people to feare God, and to obey the King, should be constrained, to seeke for their maintenance else where ? what griefe of hart is it, that those that neuer are in rest, but when they labour and striue against vs, should draw & receiue a recompence and reward from vs ? that they that make warre against vs, should be payd by vs ? That wolues should cloth themselues with the wooll, and nourish their bodies with the milke of the flocke ? a pittious and lamentable condition ; we shall see two Bishops abounding in riches, eleuated in Honors & Dignities, and filled with delights, march in Royall māner ; but what say I, that we shall see them ? yea, and that we shall bee constrained to contribute the Tenth of our reuenues to entertaine these flashes of lightning, and this worldly pompe and magnificence ? a hard seruitude : we shall be compelled to giue our bracelets, our eare-rings, to be molten, to make an Image, and shall haue no meanes to contribute any thing towards the building, and preparing of the Tabernacle : and to imploy our goods, for on ornament and beautifying of Babilon, while Ierusalem remaineth desolate, and her gates burnt down by fire : can wee indure to see Idolatry get the vpper hand, and seaze vpon our Churches, while for the pure seruice of God, and for the Preaching of his word, we haue no other couerture then the Skies, nor receptacle but the mountaines ? In our Churches where long time, so many good and sacred Psalmes haue

2. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100.

bin sung, we shall heare a strange and barbarous sound, and a company of babling Priests, exclaime against vs, and make our miseries the subiect of their pleasures?

The state ought to serue for a support and protection of the Church, and those that are aduanced to be Officers in the State, ought to vse their authority of the conseruation & maintenance thereof, our ill willers iealous of the peace and quietnesse of the same, and impatient to see it flourish and prosper, know that well, and therefore haue effected so much, that the Offices and authorities of those of the Religion are taken away from them, and giuen vnto Papists; to the end, that the Church holding no more by any branch, may by the least shake be borne downe to the ground. The gouernment of *Nauarreux*, hauing bin 51. yeares in the hands of Monsieur *de Sales* a Gentleman, on whom the eyes of enuy or hatred neuer so sharply piercing, could neuer note nor perceiue the least shadow what foeuer of infidelity towards his Prince, who perceiuing himselfe to be very olde, and without Children, certain yeares past, obtained the reuerſion of his gouernment for Monsieur *de Laur* his Cousen, who in all his actions sheweth the foot-steps and degrees of a rare & singular piety, and in his body beareth the markes of his courage, hauing (in the Kings presence at the siege of Amiens) receiued a shot with a Musket in his right shoullder, which hath bereft him of the free vse of his Arme.

Monsieur *de Sales* sent him to Bourdeaux, with Monsieur *de la Force*, to assure his Maieſty of the continuation of his fidelity, who being at the Court, he found that the enemies of the Religion had disperſed some report abroad that tended to the preiudice of the ſincerity of his affections, which had pierced euen vnto the eares, and almost into the thought of his Maieſty, but comming into the Kings presence, he disperſed those shadowes, and made the King plainly to see and perceiue, that his actions were able to indure the tryall: Whereupon the



King, sheweth him the honour to assure him, that he was persuaded of his innocencie, exhorting him, to persist in serving him faithfully, and withall commaunded him to assure Monsieur *de Sales* of his fauour and good will. The King approaching to the Frontiers of this Country; Monsieur *de Laur* presented himselfe once againe vnto him, to reiterate the protestations of his most humble and most faithfull seruice; not only in his owne, but also in the name of Monsieur *de Sales*, most humbly beseeching his Maiestie to beare with his great age, that would not permit him to present his body laden with yeares at his graces feet. The King receiuing those words of obedience and fidelity from Monsieur *de Laur*, commaunded him to continue and goe forward in imploying his time for the benefit of his seruice. Vherewith hee returned well contented in minde, but vpon the report that was spread abroad, of the Kings intent to see *Nauarreux*, he went againe to speake with him at Pau, where Monsieur *de Luines* told him, and the King confirmed it with his owne mouth, that he had no other intent nor meaning but to see *Nauarreux*, and that hee should assure Monsieur *de Sales*, that nothing should be altered nor changed in the state of that place. Monsieur *de Laur* assuring himselfe vpon that promise, which he thought to be inuiolable, contented himselfe, and sought to settle and assure Monsieur *de Sales* minde and conceite to the contrary, being moued thereunto by diuers aduices giuen him from all places, that his gouernment would be taken from him.

The King comming to *Nauarreux*, at his entry into the Towne, Monsieur *de Sales* presented the keyes thereof, and speaking vnto him, said: Sir, it is now aboute fifty yeares that I haue had the honour to be gouernor of this place; God hath giuen me the grace alwaies to haue kept it well, not only in the raigne of the King your Father deceased, but also in yours: and I am assured, that if in your Court there be any of the King  
your



your Fathers old seruants; they will witnesse that his Maiestie was well contented with my seruice, and assured himselfe of my fidelity, I neuer had a better desire to serue, then I haue at this present: If your Maiestie will accept thereof, as I most humbly beseech you, and in signe of my obedience here are the keyes of the Towne, which I present vnto you. The King made him answere, that he alwayes was assured, and still did assure himselfe more and more of his good seruice, willing him to continue and profit in seruing him well, and he would be his good Master, and acknowledge his seruice in time and place when occasion fell out, commaunding him to giue the keyes of the Towne to Monsieur *le Marquis de la Force* Captaine of his guards, and so he did.

Those pleasing and agreeable vvords of the King reioyced and comforted Monsieur *de Sales*, and vvith the same he began to be somewhat comforted: but an houre after the King entred into the Towne, he sent him word, that he would haue no more of his seruice, and gaue the gouernment to Monsieur *de Puyane* a Papist, and a Stranger, contrary to the lawes of the Country, whereby Strangers are excluded from those charges; presently thereupon all the inhabitants were disarmed, all the Garrison was discharged, that is 120. Souldiers: Their Lieutenant and Ensigne beard, sixe Captaines, the Commissary, the Controller, the Keeper of the Munition: The Doctor and the Apothicarie all of the religion, and foure Companies of the Regiment of Picardie were brought in vntill Monsieur *de Puyane* had gathered his composed of 300. men, Strangers and Papists.

A most pittifull and lamentable desolation! how could they deale roughlier with that venerable old Gentleman, who the most impudent calumnation durst not accuse them after 50. yeares and vpwards of his seruice, shamefully to displace him of his gouernment, and thereby layd his gray and weake

age, with so sensible an affliction : What pittie is it, that he who all his life time had liued in honor and authority, he that by the length and fidelity of his seruices, perfwaded himselfe that he had settled that charge in his owne house, now in his latter daies, should see him selfe laden with shame, and from so eminent a place, reduced to a priuate state, while a stranger layd hold on his spoiles, and walked like a peacocke vpon the rampers and walls of *Nauarrenx*, which his father and he at other times couragiously defended, against the inuasion of strangers. It is certaine that the hatred against religion is excessive great, seeing that neither the long seruice, of that ancient Knight, his fidelity without reproch; nor his teares could mollifie the hearts of those that had induced and incited the King, to such a seuer resolution.

How hard and troublesome it was to Monsieur *de Laur* that had the reuerfion of that his Vncles gouernment, was receiued therein, and had taken his oath accordingly, that had serued the King commanding with honour about 25. yeares ouer a company of the regimēt of *Nauarre*, lamed in the Kings seruice, & one that could not be accused of infidelity or disobedience, and for a recompence of all his seruices to see himselfe in the face of all the Court put from his charge, and made the subiect and matter of the scoffings, workes and iests of our enemies. What griping griefe must it needes be, vnto a generous heart, sensible of the force of honor: poore and desolate inhabitants of the towne, that are all of the religion, vnlesse it be one Apostate? what comfort and consolation can mitigate your griefe in this feeling of so whot in affliction, but with what words, and mourning weeds, can or may we set forth and shew that the deplorable state and miserable condition of six score Souldiers, most of them inhabitants of the Towne; hauing wiues and children, and such as for the most part succeeded their fathers, whose fidelity was manifest in the  
defence

fence of the Towne affliged by the Kings enemies? What  
 at these is it, at this day to see them, (without any offence by <sup>made at 1800</sup>  
 se them committed) dispossessed of their places, and disarmed, <sup>ing them</sup>  
 and thereby with their wiues & children, brought into shame-  
 to all pouerty? VVhat burning words might their hearts feelee, on  
 one side, to see strangers in their houses brag and braue it  
 out in their armes, & on the other to heare the sighes and con-  
 tinuall complaints of their wiues & children, ready to famish?  
 but by what counsell was it done, that our ill willers seeke (by  
 making vs lose this place) to giue vs so great a subiect com-  
 plaint? haue not we defended the same with the price of our  
 blood, against the audacious enterprize of the Papists, that had  
 driuen Queene *Ioane* out of the Countrie, and by treason, re-  
 bellion, and reuolting, had gotten all the rest of this state into  
 their hands? Is it not we, who in recompence of our fidelity,  
 haue possessed the same 60. yeares vnder the Kings seruice?  
 These Titles onely were sufficient and authentique seeing they  
 were grounded vpon so long a possession, signed and sealed  
 with the fidelity and blood of our fathers: and yet this is  
 not all. By the Ediēt of Nantes it was agreed, that all the  
 places and Garrisons, which were in possession of those of the  
 Religion, and not in time to come to be taken from them, and  
 at the same time more were giuen them, which after that by  
 many Ediēts and Declarations, hath bin confirmed, after  
 that our Churches by the Kings permission, were vnited with  
 those of France, as all the world knoweth; this graunt made  
 by the Ediēt of Nantes in fauour of the Churches of France,  
 was enlarged in our fauour by the expresse Declaration  
 made by his Maiestie to the supplication presented by the last  
 generall assembly held in Rochell; who then would bee so  
 obstinate to doubt whether *Nauarreux* so long time holden  
 by vs, in the time of peace, and many yeares before, should  
 not still be kept by vs? What manner of malice is this?



who would maintaine and affirme that it could be taken away from vs, without overthrowing of so many Edicts, and declarations, which ought to be firme and inuolable?

But now againe see how farre they proceed to the supream degree of stubbornesse and malice, and yet after all that, yett w<sup>ch</sup> most bitterest persons must holde their tongues, and make no answer. The King and his Counsell, knowing that out of the Ecclesiasticall lands of the Churches or Ministers Colledges and Garrison of *Nauarreux* and other charges were maintained & vpholden, ordained by his Decree, that another meanes should be assigned vnto vs, for the supplying therof, and namely only for the entertainment of the Garrison of *Nauarreux*, which afterward was more expressly declared in the Edict of supply verified in the Parliament of Pau. What more formall proceeding could be desired then this Edict, which was made in our fauour: then this Edict I say, which was onely a meanes for our assurance? his Maiesty there assigned a meanes for the Garrison of *Nauarreux*; was not that a witness confirmable to all many other Edicts and declarations, to shew that this place ought not to be taken away from vs? Puissant King, is it possible that within 4. dayes after the verification of this Edict, against so many other reasons, and so many other Edicts, that ought to assure this place vnto vs: you would take it away from vs? Alas, we haue said it, and are againe constrained to reiterate the same; pardon vs noble Prince, it is not against your royall Maiesty, that our clamours and complaints are made, but against the rage and malice of our enemies, which haue done you that wrong, not to permit your promises to be inuolable. Hauing taken *Nauarreux* from vs, they began to turne the State vpside downe, and therein to make alterations prejudiciall to the Religion: Garrisons were put into all the Townes, to oppresse the liberty of the Countrey, besides the Companies that are in *Nauarreux*, in Orthes they put 6. Companies



ies of the regiment of Picardie: in Sanueterre 4. Compaw  
 aw of the regiment of Champagne: as many in Oloron of the  
 dede regiment: and a company of light Horsemen in Nay.

Who can sufficiently declare the great excesses and disorders  
 which those people vndertake in a Countrey, where they are  
 it, it were animated by the hope of pillage? Who can without  
 ke horror tell and speake of the horrible blasphemies that they  
 of tch forth against God, and the iests and scornfull brauadoes  
 ed which they vomit out of their mouths against those of the Re-  
 intion? what a seruitude it is to liue like slaues at home in our  
 canne houses, and as strangers in the Towne? to see our streets  
 and of Corcelets, Pikes and Muskatiers; our meanes, and our  
 hies, in the power of the enemies of our Religion; ready, if  
 plpd did not restraints their impetuositie by his prouidence:  
 ceale vs, and to put their tyrannous intents in execution.

o All the Countrey concerning Martiall gouernment is diui-  
 s id into 6. parts, which are called Parfians: euery Parfan alwaies  
 Gad a Captaine that commanded ouer the Souldiers vnder  
 o le Kings Lieutenant, most ancient Officers; and as it were  
 ladedained at the first beginning of the State: all those 6. Cap-  
 offines were of the Religion, but what fell out? Enuy could not  
 t, adure that, that remnant of authoritie should continue in the  
 hands of those of the religion; but rather to weaken them all  
 vagerther, and onely to let them goe and scape away with their  
 ties, the sayd 6. Captaines were discharged, without any  
 inime or offence imposed vpon them, and in their places, there  
 was a new Officer made in the Countrie, that is, a Prouost  
 iclar shall with certaine Archers to attend him, and that Office  
 buen to a Papist: What an alteration of affaires is this, To  
 tppresse the auncient Officers, and to make new, onely to ad-  
 vance the Papists, and to raise them to a formall greatnes, and  
 to imbrace those of the religion, and reduce them to a pittifull  
 and lamentable condition?

And

mark w. 16. B.  
 first to h. B.  
 of 16. B.  
 of 16. B.

And further, *Monsieur de Bernac* the chiefe Baron of Be-  
 (whose auncesters haue made themselues famous, in respect where  
 their sincere affection, and loyalty to the Kings seruice, and are a  
 conseruation of the Countreys liberty,) had a grant in posses- berw  
 sion, from father to sonne of the chiefe Precedence in lable  
 State: But enuy could not endure that a most affectioned bein  
 mily to the religion, should be in possession of that dignitie. The  
 and therefore sought to dispossesse him thereof, to inuest Sou  
 Bishops with the same; and the better to bring their desire  
 to effect, a bruit was spread abroad in the Court, that it tion  
 not good for *Monsieur de Bernac* to stay in Pau, and that if Tit  
 presented himselfe, he should serue for an offering to redeem seei  
 and recompence the disobedience of Bearn: aduice was giue wit  
 him from all places, by men of greatest quality in the Court wh  
 that he was appointed to be an example, and an abashment ced  
 the rebels: he chusing rather to loose his estate, then his he the  
 in Court, resolved to keepe himselfe secretly in one of his hamo  
 ses, and in his absence, the Bishops were instabled, witho Pap  
 any contradiction, in the Precedence of the States, and by tken  
 meanes, they had places in the Counsell or Parliament next cel  
 the Presidents, and free voyces therein to Iudge of all affair Ed  
 specially of those of the religion, although one of the Bisho in t  
 had a Cousin that sate in the same Parliament, and that by cau  
 law of the Country, the Vncle and the Cousin cannot be Iurab  
 ges in one cause and company. But when there is any thing dil  
 be done that may disaduantage those of the religion, then to  
 no law which they will not violate, nor custome which they pr  
 care not to breake. ro

But this is not all, Bearn is vnited vnto France, and by the  
 Vnion the whole estate thereof is turned vpside downe war bl  
 We haue two kinds of lawes, the one is the lawe of the Souer  
 ueraigne, which may be altered, changed or disannulled as occu  
 sions fall out: the other is the Lawes of the Soueraignet w  
 where,

whereby the Prince is aduanced to the Soueraigne estate, and  
as it were the Articles and causes of the contract made  
betwene the Soueraigne and the Countrey. Those are inuiol-  
able, and cannot be changed, vnlesse the state be changed, as  
being the props whereupon it holy stayeth and dependeth.  
The principallest of those lawes being that which bindeth the  
Soueraigne to maintaine the state in the Title of Soueraigne-  
tie, and to defend the nation from allienation, and transporta-  
tion else where. Now by incorporating Bearn with France, the  
Title of Soueraignetie is taken from it, and carriéd else where,  
seeing that the King endoweth the Crowne of France there-  
with, and by consequent ouer throweth the estate, by the  
which intrusion an infinite number of mischiefes are introdu-  
ced. By the samme meanes *Nauarre* is ioyned to Bearn, making  
the Chancerie of *Nauarre* and the Counsell of Pau one Parli-  
ament, by that coniunction to introduce a great number of  
Papists into the body thereof, and so much the more to wea-  
ken those of the religion, Monsieur *de Lescun* the Kings Coun-  
cellor, would neuer consent vnto the verification of the Kings.  
Edict touching the Spirituall liuings, but still in the Countrey,  
in the Court, and in the generall assembly did maintaine Gods  
cause, and the Churches right with an inuincible and impene-  
trable vigour and constancie, he was hated in the Court, and  
diligently sought for, and being not found, he was summoned  
to appeare within twice 24. houres, and failing therein, he was  
prohibited from executing his charges Most braue and gene-  
rous wraister, receiue, I pray thee, this prohibition for an ho-  
norable reputation, and a glorious marke of thy incompara-  
ble zeale for the conseruation of the Church, and in the  
meane time expect most greene Garlands of Laurell, and im-  
mortall Crowne from him, whose cause thou hast defended  
with so great constancy.

And you poore and desolate Churches, which in times past  
D were



were like to the land of Goshen ; onely light, while all the Countrey about it was obscure and darke, and which at this present perceiue and behold darknesse to get the vpperhand and to preuaile against you, to extinguish our light; you that haue seene the purity of Gods seruice planted & reestablishe in euery place, and Idolatry wholly banished out of the Countrey ; and now behold it to be spread abroad in all the quarters thereof, to ouerwhelme both the Townes and fields, and to build her nest in your Churches, & already behold squadron of wormes and grasshoppers rise out of the bottomlesse pit of hell, to gather your grapes and mowe your fields, in danger of prohibition not to enter into the house of God : reioyce and comfort your selues, God at this time calleth you to endure persecutions, why are you abashed and astonished thereat? it is your condition, it is the liuery of your head and commander, whose head being Crowned with Thornes, why should the Church dreame of dignities, & earthly Crownes? you see the world rise vp against you : Why should you be dismayed? it is the ordinarie course thereof, it is the enemy of the truth of the Gospell, which is not of this world but of heauen : an enemy of the Church, which hath withdrawne it selfe from the world, to be transported & planted in an other Territorie and place of aboad : your places of defence are taken from you, and are not you lodged in the closet of the Soueraigne God and vnder the shadow of the wings of the most Mighty? and who can pull you out from thence? is that Fortresse to be bared? is it to be taken by men? The liuing destined and appointed for your Ministers are taken from you. And hee that times past commanded the Crowes to be Puruiors and victuallers for the Prophet *Elias*, he that commanded the oyle in the pitcher not to waiste; and the oyle in the glasse not to decay or waxe nought, is not he at this day the same God? should he arme be shortned that he cannot, or the bowels of his mercie

but vp, that hee will not, haue a care of his Church, and  
 prouide food for his Ministers? you haue the honour to suffer  
 persecution for righteousnes sake, although your enemies  
 seeke to imblemish the same with the Title of rebellion and  
 disobedience: but where doe the effects, much lesse the  
 proofes of this rebellion appeare? can they obiekt, that you  
 did euer at any time conspire against the Kings sacred person,  
 or attempted any thing against his State? that the murderers  
 of Kinges, (infernall furies of hell) were found or came out  
 from you? that your Ministers did euer goe vp into their pul-  
 pits, to proclaime warre, to kindle a reuolt, or to sowe sedi-  
 tion in your hearts? can you be reproched, that you are bound  
 by oath of fidelity and obedience to any other, but vnto the  
 King your Soueraigne? that you acknowledge any superiour  
 power in the world, that can put downe or transport his  
 Crowne to any other? haue your Ministers bookes bin con-  
 demned to be burnt, as free of falsehood, and detestable pro-  
 positions, tending to the subuersion of Soueraigne powers,  
 and the rising vp of Subiects against their Princes, as the  
 bookes of those that defame and slander you by iniuries, and  
 violently pursue you, haue bin? Then where is the rebellion  
 and disobedience, that is impropriated vnto you? It is, (say  
 they) because you did withstand the verification of the Kings  
 Edict, and thereupon they exclaime, and crie out, saying, what  
 audacioufnesse is this, what an attempt worthy of death  
 is this? What consolation and comfort haue you, when  
 you see and perceiue that they can not accuse you, but onely  
 by changing the names of things, and by calling that rebel-  
 lion, which is nothing but obedience.

The King hauing giuen the Ecclesiasticall liuings to the  
 Bishops, you could neuer obtaine that fauour to be heard by  
 the Kings Counsell, it being instantly sought for and desired;  
 answer was made, that you should be fully heard before the

Iudges, to whom the King would send his Edi& or Commi&ions: You presented your selues before those Iudges, with respect and humility, you desired to be maintained in your possession of 51. yeares, grounded vpon Edi&ts, Decrees, and letters Potents of the King your Soueraigne. Is it cald rebellion with honor to sollicite your cause to the Iudges appointed by the King, and to whom he sent you to be heard? rebellion to aske and demaund the obseruation of the Kings Edi&ts, and execution of his promises? What Title will they giue to Rebellion and disobedience, if respectiue and humble requests and solicitations are qualified with the name of disobedience and rebellion? An ingenious age, wherein the names of things are changed, thereby afterward to haue the meanes to change and peruert thinges.

And you Brethren, that by one selfe same band of Faith, and Religion are vnited, and strictly bound vnto vs: Behold in this sorowfull spectacle what hath bin done, and what more they will doe vnto you: Consider our calamities therein, and seeing you are members of the same body, behold your owne therein: Make your selues sensible of our miseries, helpe vs to finde some remedies, either by your most humble prayers vnto God, that he will be pleased to appease his iust wrath and indignation inflamed against vs, because of our sinnes, and vthankfulnes, or else by your supplications to our good King, to be admitted and restored to our first estate, or by your good assistance against those, that doe nothing else but labour vtterly to root out and destroy vs, by these chollerous alterations.

In the meane time, God graunt that these strange alterations, be not the causes of other as dangerous, and ominous alterations. God graunt, that so often, striking against the hardnesse of our patience, they doe not make some sparkles flie out, and that of those sparkles some great fire should chance to burst forth: But before all thinges, God graunt that our good  
and



mild debonarie King may be liuely touched with the pure zeale  
 of his house, to the end that thinking vpon the greatnesse of  
 the mischiefes, that he hath bin counsell'd to doe vnto vs, he  
 will shew himselfe to be our restorer, and the nourisher of our  
 churches: And for our parts, attending that time, and happy  
 reuocation, of changing, rechanging, and of turning all thinges  
 upside downward, wee are fully resolued neuer to change, our  
 affections vnto God, as Christians, nor to the willes nor de-  
 sires, not to honour the King as his faithfull Subiects: But ra-  
 ther as we pray vnto God, to strengthen our patience, that it  
 may not breake vnder the burthen of so many calamities, that  
 are procured vnto vs, so wee beseech him to prosper the  
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 Subiects.

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 and

and debonarie King may be liuely touched with the pure zeale of his house, to the end that thinking vpon the greatnesse of the mischiefes, that he hath bin counselled to doe vnto vs, he will shew himselfe to be our restorer, and the nourisher of our Churches : And for our parts, attending that time, and happy motion, of changing, rechanging, and of turning all thinges vpside downward, wee are fully resolved neuer to change, our affections vnto God, as Christians, nor to the willes nor desires, not to honour the King as his faithfull Subiects : But rather as we pray vnto God, to strengthen our patience, that it may not breake vnder the burthen of so many calamities, that are procured vnto vs, so wee beseech him to prosper the King, and to giue him long and many dayes, a flourishing Empire, and faithfull Subiects.





BY THE KING, SOVE-  
raigne Lord of Bearn.

**L**oving friends and our trusty seruants, wee are certified that you haue sent vnto vs for your Deputies, Messieurs *de Gillot*, and *de Lendresse* to make your duties known, and to certifie vs of your fidelities without any further charge committed vnto them, although Monsieur *de Casaus* chiefe President, gaue you to vnderstand, that it was our pleasure that you should send some of your Deputies to speake with vs about our Ediēt touching the Spirituall reuenues, to receiue our commandments, and to yeild vs an account of things past, grounding this doubt vpon this, that by the sayd Monsieur *de Casaus* letter it seemed that your deputation was referred vnto that with those of the religion. P. R. of our Soueraignetic are to make. And although you haue nothing at all to doe with them, and that it is free for them, to take that occasion, which the time that we haue granted yeilds vnto them; and for that it tendeth to the good of our affaires and seruice, the quietnes of the Countrey, that our intents and pleasure should forthwith be made knowne vnto you: for these causes, we will, and command you, that forthwith, and without any delay, you nominate and send some of your company vnto vs, to receiue those orders touching the Spirituall liuings, that we will giue vnto them, without depending vpon the deputation of the said Messieurs *de Gillot* and *de Lendresse*, your duties to obserue our Cōmandments binde you thereunto, faile not therein, for such is our pleasure. Giuen in *Burdeaux*, the 21. of February. 1621.

Signed

Signed,

LOVIS.

And somewhat lower,

DELOMME.

And belowe to our louing friends and faithfull seruants  
of our Counsell in the Soueraigne Courts of Bearn.

This letter being receiued by the Parliament of  
Pau : The Decree following , word for word transla-  
ted into French, was thereupon made.

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The



**T**HE Counsell Chambers assembled together, hauing seene the requests of the reformed Churches of this Countrie, and the Kings letter sent to the Counsell, bearing date the 22. of Nouember, last past; importing, that it is free for those of the reformed religion to take aduantage of the time, that was giuen them, agreeing with that which before had bin granted to the assembly in Loudun. It is decreed, That before all things his Maiestie shall most humbly be intreated, to giue audience vnto the most humble supplications and declarations of the sayd Churches, willing the said Churches, to present themselues vnto his Maiestie, before the said time be expired, which being expired, and for not doing it, we will proceed to the registering and publishing of the Edict, according to the contents of the Commission, bearing date the 10. of September last. And to that end Messieurs *du Four* and *de Marca* are appointed Deputies presently to goe to *Bordeaux* or any other place, where the King shall be.

Giuen in Pau, the last of Ianuary. 1621.





